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Approved For Release 2001/03/16 : CIA-RDP82-00457R009500010001-6
Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC OFFER

Soviet Ammunition Depot at Torgau-Suebnitz

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT.

DATE OBTAINED.

DATE PREPARED

6 November 1951

REFERENCES

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PAGES 7

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 20 September 1951, source learned that the former German army ammunition depot at Torgau-Suepitz was under the command of a **Russian** colonel and occupied by a company, which was organized into 2 guard details, 1 motor transport section, artificers and clerks. The motor transport section was equipped with 10 trucks, 2 semitrailers and 1 prime mover. Most of the vehicles were on blocks. One or two supply trucks and the sedan of the commander were in operating condition.
2. At the depot, there were about 130 German civilians, mostly women, who cleaned shells, manufactured and filled cartridge bags. It was said that only German ammunition was stored there. It included 88-mm AA shells, 105-mm artillery ammunition and small amounts of infantry ammunition. The filling station was not in operation.
3. No shipments have allegedly left the depot since March or April 1951. However, an average of 12 railroad boxcarloads of ammunition weekly arrive there. After being inspected for defective and unusable pieces, the ammunition is stored. Incoming shipments, whose dispatching station could not be determined, arrived at the depot under Soviet escort. Unusable ammunition was detonated in the area north of Suepitz-Zinna two or three times a week.
4. Guard duty outside the ammunition depot was performed by a German Volkspolizei unit of about 130 men under the command of VP Bat Steinbocker (Znu). The VP unit consisted of personnel taken directly into service and of those who had received a three-month training course with the VP Guard Battalion in Halle. *

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* Comment. The information confirms the Soviet ammunition depot in the former German army ammunition depot at Torgau, also referred to as depot at Suepitz or Zina, until the end of September 1951. The depot is believed to store only **captured German** ammunition which is used to supply Volkspolizei units. The assumption is **supported by the fact, however,** that, according to reports on rail movements, no shipments with ammunition from the U.S.S.R. arrive at the depot. In November 1950 and April 1951, shipments from Justerbog Altes Lager were reported to have arrived there. According to reports on rail shipments, there have been no incoming shipments during the last months. In May 1951 a train of 36 boxcars with ammunition left Torgau for Prost-Litovsk and in August 1951 a train of 37 boxcars and a second of 30 boxcars with ammunition left Torgau for Iasterburg. See [redacted]

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No Change in Price

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Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R009500060005-0

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